

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 12 are pending, and have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Imasaki et al. (US 5,983,210).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are novel and patentable over Imasaki et al. because, for instance, Imasaki et al. does not teach or suggest updating at least one of the management information items being displayed to express present access status of a communication path when detecting that access failure occurs at the communication path based on an access to the storage device, and/or updating at least one of the management information items being displayed when receiving from the user interface an input for updating the management information items being displayed.

The claimed invention discloses a computer-readable storage medium, information processing apparatus and control method utilized in a storage system including a server and storage system connected by a plurality of communication path (see, e.g., Figs. 1 and 2). The apparatus of this invention has the function of displaying at a user interface a plurality of management information items expressing access status of a communication path for sending data input/output request to a storage device and returning result of the access request to the information processing apparatus (see, e.g., Figs. 2, 11, and 12). When access failure occurs at the communication path based on an access to the storage device, or receiving input for updating from the user interface, at least one of the management information items is displayed to express present access status of a communication path (see, e.g., Fig. 11).

According to the claimed invention, at least part of the management information items expressing access status of communication path is updated when receiving input for updating the management information items to be displayed at the user interface. With this arrangement of the invention as claimed, it is possible to perform updating management information items expressing present access status of a communication path in a way pursuant to the needs of the operator responsible for monitoring the paths. It becomes

also possible to eliminate the processing loads relative to the information processor otherwise occurring due to execution of unnecessary updating tasks. Updating of the path management information items can be carried out in a way pursuant to the needs of the operator who monitors the status of such paths. Furthermore, updating the information as to access failure to be displayed at the user interface in accordance with a present state of each path, for example, in a case-sensitivity way depending upon when access failure occurs at path or when such access failure is cured or recovered, even if the operator does not click on either an "all update" or an "partial update" button. The claimed invention makes it possible to quickly recognize a change in state of the individual path. For example, upon occurrence of access failure of in the information processing system, it becomes possible to quickly take necessary corrective action. See specification at page 31, line 25 to page 35, line 12.

In contrast, Imasaki et al. discloses to structure a data processing apparatus by combining a plurality of units 2 as exemplified in FIG.1. The "error signal" disclosed in Imasaki et al. refers to a difference between the final output signal of the network and a desired output (col. 3, lines 26-27). The error signal does not represent "access failure" occurring at the communication path as presently claimed (see access failure in path 300 as shown in Fig. 13).

Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that "updating at least one of said information items" of this invention corresponds to "modifying parameter" in Imasaki et al. Imasaki et al. discloses to structure data processing system by combining a plurality of units, and parameter modifying means provided in each unit modifies parameter based on the error signal. It allows the user to build a data processing system by only connecting the units to form a network structure. On the other hand, when access failure occurs or updating instruction is received from user interface in the claimed invention, at least one of management information items for expressing present access status of the communication path itself is updated without modification (see Fig.11).

Therefore, the unique feature of the claimed invention for updating at least one of management information items expressing present access status of a communication path when access failure occurs at communication path based on an access path to storage device is completely different from what is taught in Imasaki et al.

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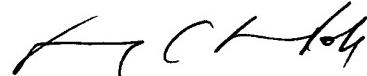
For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 5, and 9, and claims 3-4, 7-8, and 11-12 depending therefrom, are novel and patentable over Imasaki et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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